

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph that begins on page 21, line 1, with the following paragraph:

A further aspect of the present invention is an efficient and easy-to-implement method and apparatus for monitoring the status of and controlling such electronic devices. A special circuit is provided which provides measurement of the power (amperage) utilized by each electronic device. By monitoring power usage, the power (usage) profile of each specific electronic device can be forwarded to the touch screen controller 50. The power ~~usage~~-profiles are then analyzed by software running on the controller 50 to determine the operating status of the electronic device. This may be accomplished by using a standard database of power ~~usage~~ profiles to identify normal type operations and abnormal, catastrophic types of activity exhibited by the electronic devices.

Please replace the paragraph that begins on page 23, line 14, with the following paragraph:

A learning mode is provided so that the controller 50 can be adapted to monitoring new electrically powered devices which are plugged into the system. The learning process includes establishing a baseline power consumption and typical operating conditions of the new electrically powered devices. More importantly, abnormal/catastrophic (i.e., erroneous) operating conditions are simulated and recorded onto the database. These power ~~consumption~~ profiles are the basis for the software module to determine the appropriate on/off state for the electrically powered device. The software module includes a user interface which allows programming the on/off of the peripheral devices via user specified conditions. In addition, the software module includes an algorithm which records power ~~utilization~~-profiles and makes comparisons with an established database of power ~~utilization~~-profiles.

Please replace the paragraph that begins on page 24, line 1, with the following paragraph:

Figure 12 illustrates an exemplary power profile for a laser printer. Referring to Figure 12, the power profile shows time periods 410 where the laser printer is printing. At time periods 420, the laser printer is in idle mode, as shown by the periodic spikes 425. At time period 430, the laser printer has a paper jam. During this unique period, the laser printer draws minimal power and has no significant spikes. Thus, if a paper jam occurs, the controller 50 will detect a halt condition by comparing the stored power profile in the database with the actual power profile of the laser printer or by detecting that the power usage fails to rise above a predetermined threshold for a predetermined time period.

Please replace the paragraph that begins on page 24, line 10, with the following paragraph:

Figure 13 is a flow diagram illustrating an exemplary process 500 of the software module. Referring to Figure 13, the process 500 includes a learning mode and an operating mode (default). At block 502 if the learning mode is selected (e.g., during setup of a device by a system administrator), the process proceeds to block 504 where a power ~~usage~~-profile is established for the selected device. In one embodiment, the power ~~usage~~-profile is a function of amperage and time. The power ~~usage~~-profile of the selected device includes, for example, the power ~~usage~~-profile during normal operating conditions, abnormal conditions (e.g., paper jam), and catastrophic conditions. Then at block 506, the power ~~usage~~-profile of the selected device is stored in a database. At block 508, if the learning mode is complete, the process jumps back to block 502, otherwise the process jumps to block 504 for establishing the power ~~usage~~-profile for another device.

Please replace the paragraph that begins on page 25, line 7, with the following paragraph:

Conversely, if the user is not done, the process proceeds to block 518 where the power usage is monitored and compared with the stored power ~~usage~~-profile of the device. At step 520, the power ~~usage~~-profile of the device is determined. If the device is in normal operation, the process jumps back up to block 516. If an abnormal condition is detected, the process proceeds to block 522 where billing is suspended and a warning message is displayed. Then, at block 524 the device is monitored and the billing timer is resumed when the device is back to normal condition. The process then jumps to block 516. If at block 520, a catastrophic condition is detected, then the process proceeds to block 526 where a warning message is displayed. The process continues to block 528 where the billing timer is stopped and the device is shut down.

Please replace the paragraph that begins on page 25, line 18, with the following paragraph:

The monitoring of the power ~~usage~~-profile of an electrically powered device provides the advantage of detecting an abnormal/catastrophic operation of the electrically powered device (e.g., when a copier has a paper jam) and automatically suspending billing for usage of that electrically powered device during such abnormal catastrophic condition.